

REMARKS

35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 51-62 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. In particular, the Examiner objects to the phrase “final support substrate.” As used in the original claims, the terms “final” and “initial” were used to distinguish between different substrates that may be used during the processes described. The claims have been amended to remove the word “final” wherever it appears, and to change the word “initial” to “intermediate” wherever it appears. In the specification, the terms “final support substrate” and “support substrate” are used interchangeably, and the terms “initial support substrate” and “intermediate support substrate” are likewise used interchangeably. As amended, Applicants submit that the claims satisfy the requirements of §112 and thus are now in condition for allowance.

35 U.S.C. § 102

Independent claims 51, 56, 59, 60 and 62 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as anticipated by Lee. Independent claim 51 requires “segmenting the film attached to the support substrate into an array of discrete film segments attached to the support substrate.” Claim 51 also requires “attaching a film ... to place the film in removably attached contact with the pattern of adhesive.” Thus, these limitations are required by all of claims 52-62, which depend either directly or indirectly from claim 51, all pending claims contain these limitations. Lee does not disclose segmenting the film attached to the support substrate into an array of discrete film segments attached to the support substrate. Lee also does not disclose placing the film in removably attached contact with the pattern of adhesive. Thus, Lee cannot anticipate any of Applicants’ claims.

Figs. 2A and 2B illustrate an example of how “segmenting the film attached to the support substrate into an array of discrete film segments attached to the support substrate” may be performed. Fig. 2A shows a layer of film **210** that has been removably attached to a

support substrate **200**. Fig. 2B shows the result of segmenting a layer of film into an array of discrete film segments **215** attached to a support substrate **200**.

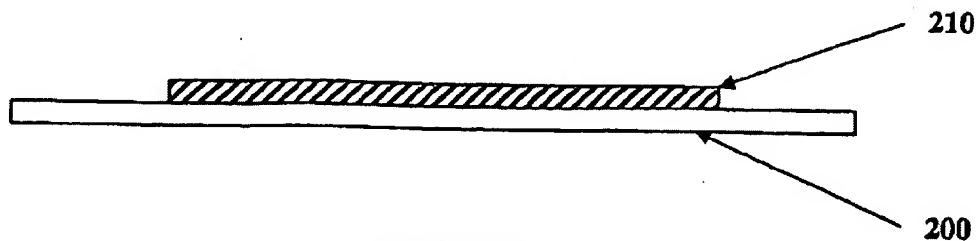


Figure 2A

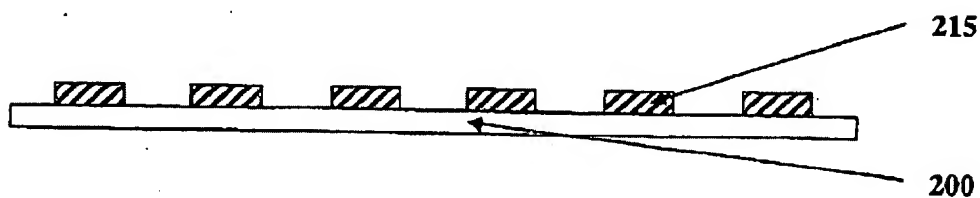


Figure 2B

Fig. 1A provides another illustrative example, showing a different perspective view, of an array of discrete film segments **115** removably attached to a support substrate **100**.

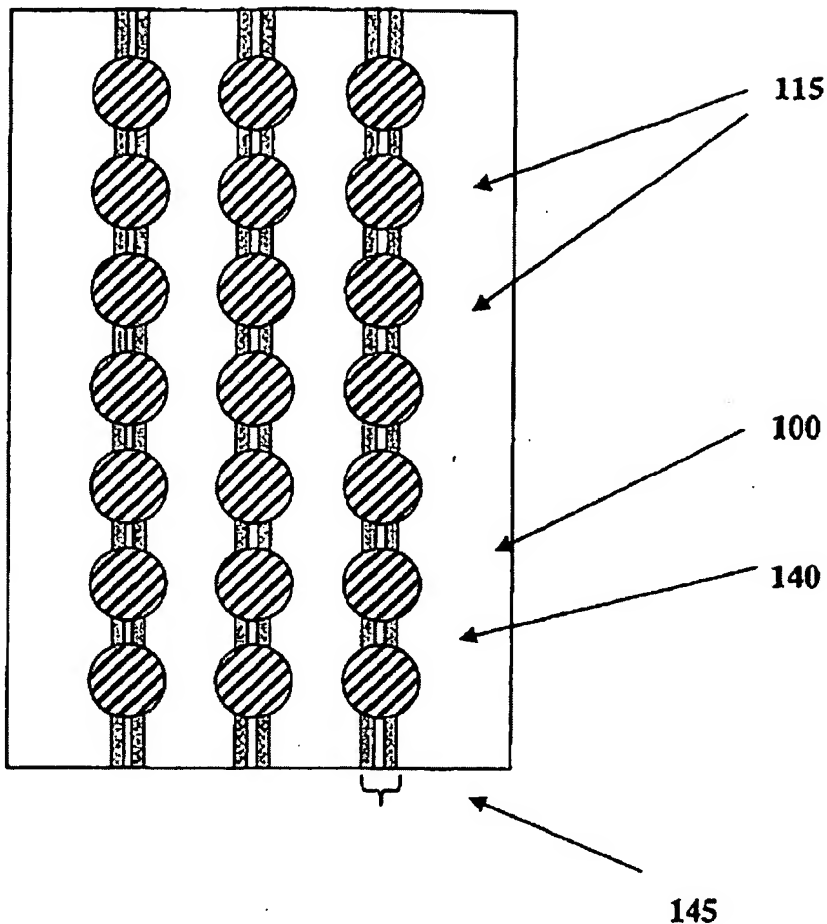


Figure 1A

Examples of how the segmenting can be performed, including kiss-cutting the film and removing a portion of the film from the support substrate, are described in Applicants' specification in paragraphs 0038 and 0048.

Lee does not disclose segmenting a layer of film attached to a support substrate into an array of discrete film segments attached to the support substrate, as required by all of Applicants' claims. Lee discloses something altogether different. As the examiner states in the Office Action, Lee discloses "segmenting the final support substrate" rather than segmenting the film attached to the substrate. Lee discloses providing a layer of film laminated to a cloth backing, and then segmenting the entire product into a collection of

unattached discs. (Lee, col. 9, lines 16-23; Office Action, page 5). Lee starts with a single large layer of film, laminated to a single large cloth backing. After cutting, Lee has produced a number of smaller objects. Applicants' claims, however, require segmenting film into an array of discrete film segments attached to a support substrate, as in, for example, Fig. 1A or Fig. 2B. An unattached collection of film segments, each attached to a distinct support substrate does not satisfy the language of the claims, which requires "segmenting the film ... attached to the ... substrate," resulting in "an array of ... film segments ... attached to the ... substrate."

Lee also does not disclose placing a layer of film in removably attached contact with a pattern of adhesive. Adhesives are used to perform different functions in Lee than in embodiments of the present invention, and adhesives are accordingly incorporated into the structure of the devices in Lee differently than devices according to embodiments of the present invention. Embodiments of the present invention use a pattern of adhesive to achieve removable attachment of segments of film to a support substrate, such that the segments of film may later be removed from the support substrate and from the adhesive, e.g. to be applied to the skin of a patient. Lee, on the other hand, teaches using adhesives to attach a device to the skin of a patient. For example, adhesive layer 16 is secured to agent-containing reservoir 12. The adhesive can be attached or removed from the skin but is intended to remain attached to the film. Lee does not disclose removing the agent-containing reservoir from the adhesive, because the adhesive remains part of the patch that is attached to the patient.

Therefore, for at least these reasons, the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 are improper and must be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 51-62 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as obvious over Lee in view of Cartmell and Robertson. As discussed above, Lee does not teach or suggest "segmenting the film attached to the support substrate into an array of discrete film segments attached to the support substrate," and it does not teach "attaching a film ... to place the film in removably attached contact with the pattern of adhesive." These deficiencies are not cured by Cartmell or Robertson. All of claims 52-62 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 51, and thus

incorporate all the limitations of claim 51. Therefore a prima facie case for obviousness has not been established for any of these claims (see MPEP 2143.03 – All Claim Limitations Must Be Taught Or Suggested), and the rejections must be withdrawn.

Newly Added Claims

New claims 118-122 have been added. Claims 118 and 119 depend from claim 61 and contain additional limitations regarding interaction between the support substrate and the sealing material. Claim 120, which depends from claim 51, contains limitations similar to those of claim 55. New independent claims 121 and 122 are similar to claim 51, but they specify that the support substrate and/or film have adhesive properties obviating the need to provide a separate adhesive layer to removably attach the film to the support substrate. As set forth above, “segmenting the film attached to the support substrate” is not disclosed by Lee. Therefore, all the new claims should be allowed.

For all of the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that all claims presently pending in the application are allowable over the art of record and early notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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